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opinion, be the height of folly to run the smallest risk of introducing the disease into British Central Africa, where its presence would be an irreparable disaster. Knowing the mechanical way in which such work is carried out by native officials in India, I do not think that any stipulation as to locality is of the smallest value. Whatever was stated to the contrary, the first parcel of seed would, in all probability, come from a plantation reeking with disease. The present request is the more unnecessary as, according to a coffee planter in Nyassaland who is well acquainted with coffee cultivation in Ceylon, a local African tree, *Albizza fastigiata*, is admirably adapted for a shade tree for coffee. If this is not sufficient, the rain tree, *Pithecolobium saman*, might be tried. The seed can be obtained in abundance from Jamaica, and this would be perfectly safe."

MESSRS. G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS will begin early in the present year the publication of a new series of scientific books, 'The Science Series,' edited by Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Columbia University, with the cooperation of Frank Evers Beddard, Esq., F. R. S., in Great Britain. It is expected that the following will be among the earlier volumes to be in readiness: *The Stars*. By PROFESSOR SIMON NEWCOMB, U. S. N., Nautical Almanac Office and Johns Hopkins University.

*The Earth as a Planet*. By PROFESSOR C. A. YOUNG, Princeton University.

*The Measurement of the Earth*. By PRESIDENT T. C. MENDENHALL, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, formerly Superintendent of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

*Earth Structure*. By PROFESSOR JAMES GEIKIE, F.R.S., University of Edinburgh.

*Volcanoes*. By PROFESSOR T. G. BONNEY, F.R.S., University College, London.

*Earthquakes*. By MAJOR C. E. DUTTON, U. S. A.

*Physiography: The Forms of the Land*. By PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS, Harvard University.

*The Groundwork of Science*. By DR. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F. R. S., Chilworth, Surrey.

*The History of Science*. By C. S. PIERCE, Milford, Pa.

*The Study of Man*. By PROFESSOR A. C. HADDON, Royal College of Science, Dublin.

*General Ethnography*. By PROFESSOR DANIEL G. BRINTON, University of Pennsylvania.

*Recent Theories of Evolution*. By J. MARK BALDWIN, Princeton University.

*The Animal Ovary*. By F. E. BEDDARD, F. R. S., Zoological Society, London.

*The Reproduction of Living Things*. By PROFESSOR MARCUS HARTOG, Queen's College, Cork.

*The Structure of Man*. By A. KEITH.

*Heredity*. By J. ARTHUR THOMSON, School of Medicine, Edinburgh.

*Life Areas of North America: A Study in the Distribution of Animals and Plants*. By DR. C. HART MERRIAM, Chief of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

*Age, Growth, Sex and Death*. By PROFESSOR CHARLES S. MINOT, Harvard Medical School.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE sum of \$50,000, necessary to secure a gift of \$10,000 from the Baptist Educational Society of America, has been raised by subscription for Colby University. It is stated that this money will be in part used for the erection of a chemical laboratory.

THE attempt to break the will of William Sauser, of Hannibal, Mo., who died in 1892 and bequeathed all his property, valued at \$200,000, to Westminster College, Hannibal, Mo., a Presbyterian institution, has failed.

THE Town Council of Aberdeen has voted £5,000 to the University buildings extension scheme, on condition that the same be completed.

AT the meeting of the Edinburgh University Court on January 17th intimation was made of a donation of £1,000 by Sir William Overend Priestley, M.P., for the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. The very Rev. Dr. William Charles Lake, late Dean of Durham, has bequeathed £1,000 to the Durham College of Science, at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE Geological Laboratory of King's College, London, has received a valuable gift of minerals and recent shells from Miss A. Mallet in aid of the equipment for teaching purposes in the faculty of natural science and engineering.

AT the first meeting of the governors of Mason University College, Birmingham, which has recently been incorporated, the President of the College (the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M. P.) made an important speech on the subject of a Midland University.

DR. FRANK M. McMURRY, Dean of the

School of Pedagogy of the University of Buffalo, has been appointed professor of the theory and practice of teaching at the Teachers' College, New York. The study of education and the professional training of teachers will be abandoned at Buffalo at the end of the present year, special measures having been taken to enable the students of Professor McMurry to continue their work under him at Columbia University. Dr. W. B. Elkin, lecturer in philosophy at Cornell University, has been appointed to an instructorship in the theory and practice of teaching.

MR. H. BAGNALL POULTON, M.A., F.R.S., Hope professor of zoology at Oxford University, has been elected to a Fellowship in Jesus College, under the statute providing for the election of 'any person of eminence in literature, science or art whose presence on the governing body would, in the judgment of the Principal and Fellows, be beneficial to the college.

MR. FRANK CLOWES has accepted the position of chief chemist to the London County Council, and has been made emeritus professor of chemistry of University College, Nottingham.

M. LE CHATELIER has been appointed to the chair of mineralogical chemistry in the College de France, vacant by the death of M. Schützenberger, and Professor G. M. Searle has been appointed Director of the Vatican Observatory at Rome in the place of Father Denza. Dr. Straubel has been promoted to an assistant professorship of physics at the University of Jena, and Dr. Brendel, docent in astronomy, to an assistant professorship in the University of Greifswald.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### A NOTE ON THE SOUTH AMERICAN COASTAL CLOUD.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The following brief notes on the coastal cloud of the west coast of South America may be considered as supplementary to the notes on clouds printed in SCIENCE for August 27th last.

One of the most interesting features in the meteorology of the desert region which extends roughly from lat. 3° S. to 30° S., along the

west coast of South America, is the almost constant presence of a bank of clouds over the coast range of hills and the strip of land immediately adjacent to the ocean. On the writer's voyage up this coast from Valparaiso to Panama, accomplished at intervals during the months from August to January, it was noted that the southern limit of this coastal cloud coincides very nearly with the southern limit of the rainless belt, and that its northern limit may be taken as defined by the latitude at which the zone of heavy rainfall in Ecuador begins and the desert strip ends.

The height of the base of the cloud, which seemed usually to be a low *strato-cumulus*, was determined in a few cases by means of aneroid barometers and found to be between 2,000 and 3,000 feet above sea-level. The vertical thickness of the cloud was found, by reference to the heights of the coast range of hills, to be less than 1,000 feet. As to the width of the cloud, from its seaward to its landward side, a few crossings by railroad from the ocean to the interior country showed an inland extension of roughly between ten and twenty miles. This distance probably depends partly upon the trend of the coast range of hills and partly upon the topography of the region. The extension of the coastal cloud to seaward apparently also varies considerably. Sometimes the shore-line itself was found to mark the limits of the cloud as sharply as if they were drawn with a ruler, and at other times the cloud was noticed extending as far as ten or even fifteen miles off shore.

A study of the growth of the cloud, and of its relations to the clear sky on the seaward and landward sides, would be very interesting. For instance, on December 16th, last, at 8 a. m., when the writer was in Mollendo, there was a very sharp dividing line between the low gray coastal cloud over the land and the blue sky, with a few *cirro-cumulus* clouds dotted over it, over the ocean. Later in the morning the coastal cloud extended itself seaward and the sharp line of division was lost. The contrast between the region along the coast covered by this cloud belt and the country inland, beyond the reach of the cloud, is usually very striking. But it is interesting to note that, if a sufficient